

In this benches were to be made for the jury room. Isaac Moore was commissioned sheriff of the county with James and William Bruffey and Jhn Holden as his deputies.

The court of 1850 May term consisted of the following men William L Fertig, James Edmiston, John McNeel, John Yeager, William Cackley, David Kerr, Samuel Hogsett, William L McNeel, Hugh McLaughlin, Lanty Lockridge, Paul McNeel and Sampson Mathews. At this term of court an assessor was chosen in accordance of an act of the general assembly so Paul McNeel was chosen the first assessor of Pocahontas County. The levy for 1850 was for 810. from 989 tithables. It was ordered by the court that an open poll be taken of the white free holders , tax payers and persons over 21 years of age chargeable with the pay of the county levy, also whether the County Court of this County shall subscribe to the capitol stock of the Virginia Central Rail Road Company a sum not exceeding 10.000.00. Thomas Hill was again chosen commissioner of the revinue for Pocahontas County for the year of 1850, Paul McNeel submitted his report of assessment of lands and personal property in Pocahontas County which took 95 days to perform his duty, his bill was authorized payed by the court and certified to the auditor of public accounts for payment.

The county was layed off into school districts, the first commencing at John Townsends and a straight line to the mouth of Sittlington Creek, thence to the Highland County line, this includes



all the people in the upper end of the county,# 2 commencing at Andrew Mathews ~~XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~ to John Cleeks by the carding machine known as Bradshaws,# 3 starting at John Potts thence with the number one line to Andrew G Mathews thence with the line of # 2 to the Bath County line and to Solomon Aldermans, thence by the Cummings place thence to the river at Joshua B Keys,#4 starting at John Townsends thence to John Townsends,thence to Big Spring fork of Elk,thence to the county line near Josiah Bridgers this includes all the inhabitants on Elk and Laurel Creek and Stony Creek and back to Joshua B.Keys.# 5 starting Jonathan Griffins and connecting with the line of # 3 and 4 to the mouth of Stamping Creek up the same to its head and to the Nicholas County line.# 6 starting with line number 5 down the river to the Greenbrier County line thence to John Oldhams to Casebolts store to the county line on old Nicholas road,# 7 starting with a line of # 6 and taking in all the remaining families in the lower end of the county.The men selected as school commissioners were as follows for district # I was Patrick Bruffey,# 2 Preston Moore,# 3 William Skeen,# 4 Isaac Moore,# 5 John H Ruckman,# 6 Thomas Hill,# 7 Josiah Beard.

William Skeen was chosen Superintendent of schools for Pocahontas County,starting January 1,1850 so he was the first county Superintendent of schools for Pocahontas County,this office has lived through all these



ers and today we find our schools still under the supervision of a county superintendent, this office having been created in 1851.

The sheriff produced in court a list of land ~~XXXX~~ to be sold for the nonpayment of taxes for 1845-46-47-48 and 49 this land was sold October 1 1850 so this custom was started in 1850 and is still practiced in our county today. Isaac Moore was again chosen sheriff of the county until 1852 his deputies were William Bruffey, James Bruffey and John Holden. A court held April 1 1851 was made up of the following justices Joseph Moore, Benny Tallman, Samuel Hogsett, John McNeill, and Leonard Herring. About this time Sampson L. Mathews takes over and has surveyed 1,000 acres of land on Stamping Creek and Cranberry River, which refers to a survey of 3,000 acres in 1787 of George Clendenen, John McNeel and John Beckley, this Mathews tract is the vacant land between these surveys of 1787. Many of our larger estates were surveyed between the time of the formation and 1850 and some of these larger tracts are still together today, as much of Pocahontas County is taken up by some of our larger farms of from 500 to 2500 acres found in various parts of the county.

In 1851 the court room was enlarged and a new clerks office built this served the county for many years.

It is at this time that the records show that a free man of color named Cesar Freeman received a parcel of land from George Messinbirg and



it is thought by many that this is where Ceasar Mountain got its name as these colored people lived here for years after their master died. This lad is recorded in the clerks office in Bath County Virginia of 1796.

This county like all civilized countries had to have ministers of the gospel for preaching on the sabbath day also to perform marriages that took place from time to time over the county, as religious activities played a very important part in our county government from its very beginning and so on up to the present time as no country can survive without some sort of christianity so on October 7, 1851 Joshua Buckley a Methodist Protestant minister is ordained a minister of the gospel and a license was granted him to perform marriages within the commonwealth.

Benny Tallman is chosen Sheriff and commissioned by the Governor of Virginia to serve until 1853, his deputies were Jacob Kennison, and John A. Holden.

By this time our county government was functioning nicely and the inhabitants on the western waters were better satisfied than before the formation as they felt they were better served by a government with the county government in their midst and so today we find the closer the government is to the people the better it functions .